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Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat dances in Hebron yesterday with Mayor Mustafa Natshe in celebration of the last day of the Id al-Fitr feast. He is expected to go to Ramallah today, if 23 women prisoners there are released as expected. Arafat was received by dignitaries and a marching band and a delegation of Arab MKs, who said they were impressed by his positive spirit about the future of talks. Arafat himself joked that 'Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and whoever does not like it can go drink the water of the Dead Sea.'

PM to reveal final-status principles

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will reveal the principles that will guide Israel in final-status talks with the Palestinians to President Bill Clinton and top US officials when they meet on Thursday, the premier's aides indicated yesterday.

He will also tell them the extent of the pullback on the West Bank scheduled for March 7.

"We think it would be a good idea for the Americans to know the basic outlines of our thinking on final status," one Netanyahu aide said, adding that Netanyahu will stick to general principles and not present an exact map.

The extent of the March 7 pullback was one of the two key subjects discussed in consultations between Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Foreign Minister David Levy, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, OC Planning Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, and the premier's top aides.

Netanyahu wants the Americans to understand Israel's stance before the final-status talks begin next month, believing that failure to make it clear could mean that Israel will be isolated internationally.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu convened the entire cabinet yesterday to provide some less informed ministers with a general overview of the Oslo process - past, present, and future. Mordechai, Shahak, and Mofaz, who addressed the ministers, also outlined Israel's strategic interests on the West Bank.

Officials sharply denied a report by Channel 1 that the military called for Israel to keep 52 percent of the West Bank. "This is rubbish," said a military spokesman.

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Indyk: Stop debate over Lebanon

By STEVE RODAN

US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk last night urged a suspension of the political debate over a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Speaking to the Israel-America Friendship Association in Tel Aviv, Indyk stressed that he did not want to intervene in Israeli politics, but he added: "I agree with the prime minister that the time is not yet ripe for that [unilateral withdrawal]. If you want to achieve strong and lasting peace on any track it is only through negotiations."

Indyk also said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will be discussing a bridging formula with US officials that will allow the resumption of negotiations with Syria.

"We will be consulting to find a bridging formula for the parties," Indyk told reporters. But he added that the US will not press either Syria or Israel to accept such a formula.

"We'll know if we have a successful formula when the negotiations resume," he said. "We don't believe in forcing anybody, especially not a democratic ally."

Har-Shefi to be charged with helping Amir

By EVELYN GORDON

The State Attorney's Office has decided to indict Margalit Har-Shefi for abetting Yigal Amir in assassinating prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday.

The indictment will be filed today, 15 months after the assassination, in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the indictment took so long to prepare for two reasons: Har-Shefi was a witness in the conspiracy trial of Amir, his brother Haggai, and Dror Adani, and the State Attorney's Office did not want her testimony to be compromised; and secondly, because six people were being investigated on similar charges, the investigation involved a lengthy amount of cross-checking.

According to the indictment, Har-Shefi told Amir where the armory in Beit El was located, and also gave him the name of a chemist whom she said could help him make bombs. In the end, however, these attempts to assist Amir were not relevant to the assassination, which Amir committed with his own pistol and bullets manufactured by his brother, Haggai.

The indictment also charges that Har-Shefi, who is a former girlfriend of Amir's, knew he planned to kill Rabin, but failed to inform the proper authorities.

However, five other people who were investigated in connection with the crime will not be prosecuted, the ministry said. The cases against

Obad Skornik and Binyamin Abaroni were closed due to insufficient evidence, while Shmuel Shaki, Michael Epstein, and Hila Frank were found to be completely in the clear.

Skornik, like Har-Shefi, was suspected of knowing about Amir's plans but keeping silent. He was also suspected of conspiring to commit terror attacks against Palestinians - a crime for which the Amirs and Adani were convicted. Abaroni was suspected of public mischief-making, for calling the media after the assassination and claiming that a group he headed was responsible.

Shaki and Epstein were suspected of conspiring to commit a crime and of not informing the authorities about Amir's intentions, while Frank was suspected of the latter offense.

Third Way, NRP threaten to topple gov't over Jerusalem construction

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs from the Third Way and the National Religious Party have threatened to upset the work of the government to the point of toppling it, if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not move on various construction projects in Jerusalem.

Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), one of the most outspoken MKs on the issue, has said the strengthening of Jerusalem is an essential part of his party's platform. "We see the construction of the Har Homa neighborhood as essential," he said.

The Yisrael Ba'aliya faction is calling on Netanyahu to immediately start construction in Har Homa and of Route No. 45 at the northern entrance to the city.

Netanyahu is scheduled to meet with coalition faction heads today to discuss the political struggle for Jerusalem. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is expected to attend the meeting.

Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan, who arranged the meeting, noted that at a gathering of coalition MKs last week, there was heavy criticism of the government's policies on Jerusalem. That meeting, at the

initiative of the NRP, discussed building in the capital.

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat presented a document, which was endorsed by all the non-haredi coalition parties, calling for housing construction in the Har Homa area and for homes to be built along the Ma'aleh Adumim-Jerusalem road. It also demands the construction of Road No. 45 entering Jerusalem from the north.

Yehuda Harel (Third Way) said his party could also "not be satisfied with less than this."

The Third Way is calling for 1,500 housing units and 3,000

hotel rooms to be built in the area between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem, as well as roads and the start of the Har Homa project.

Olmert told the MKs that former housing minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and former finance minister Avraham Shohat (both Labor) recently met with Netanyahu and expressed support for the Har Homa project.

Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said that construction in the Greater Jerusalem area enjoyed broad public support. He asked opposition MKs to support such work as a commitment to Jerusalem.

2 convicted in Crown Heights murder

By MARLYN HENRY

NEW YORK - More than five years after rioting by blacks in Crown Heights left Yankel Rosenbaum dead, two black men were convicted yesterday on charges related to his murder.

On the fourth day of deliberation in federal court in Brooklyn, the jury found Lemrick Nelson Jr. and Charles Price guilty of violating the civil rights of Rosenbaum, who was knifed to death during the black pogrom in Crown Heights in 1991.

Nelson was acquitted of murder charges in state court more than four years ago, and the acquittal

sparked demands from the Jewish community for federal intervention. Two years later, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a civil rights investigation that led to the charges.

In appeals for calm yesterday, officials and communal leaders said the verdict was about justice, not race. But they also cautioned that the Crown Heights case is not over.

"After five and a half years of pursuing justice with disappointment and frustration, finally a measure of justice had been achieved for the victims of the Crown Heights riots," said Michael Miller, executive director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Rosenbaum, a 29-year-old student from Australia, was attacked by a mob of young black men in the first of four days of rioting in August 1991. The rampage in the

Brooklyn neighborhood began after a black child was hit and killed by a bassidic motorist in the Lubavitcher rebbe's motorcade.

On the final day of deliberations, the jury reportedly asked to see videotape from that accident, although it is not clear what role

this played in the verdict. Prosecutor Valerie Caproni had charged that Nelson and Price were part of a murderous "vigilante gang" that was out to kill a Jew.

Continued on Page 4

Book WE'RE MOVING!

The Jerusalem Post Book Department is moving to new premises at 22 Hahistadrut - just off Ben Yehuda. The JP store on 10 HaRav Kook will be closed to walk-in customers from Thur. Feb. 13, 1997. Orders still accepted to POB 81, Jerusalem, 91000 or tel. 02-624-1282 fax: 02-624-1212 email: orders@post.co.il

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PA agrees to transfer burned boy to Hadassah

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Palestinian Authority has finally agreed to transfer to Hadassah-University Hospital's pediatric intensive care unit a four-and-a-half-year-old Bethlehem boy in critical condition, with burns suffered in an accident over a week ago.

Before the boy's plight was publicized, the PA had wanted to move him to a Jordanian hospital, apparently for political and financial reasons, but doctors at Jerusalem's Hospital said such a trip could endanger his life.

The boy, Amir Buja, was standing next to his 14-year-old cousin, who was preparing a bonfire to mark the end of the Ramadan fast. The cousin poured paint thinner over the wood, and it exploded in Buja's face, causing severe burns. He was rushed in critical condition to Bethlehem Hospital, which transferred him to Mokassed, even though it doesn't have a burns unit.

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, director of Hadassah-University

Hospital in Ein Kerem, agreed to find place for him in the pediatric intensive care unit of its new Mother-and-Child Center and reduce the diagnostic-related group charge set by the Health Ministry for burns cases from NIS 100,000 to NIS 60,000.

MK Taleb a-Sanaa appealed to Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who used the incident to illustrate the problem of the PA's "takeovers" of Mokassed and four other eastern Jerusalem hospitals in recent months. Yesterday, the PA told an intermediary that it would pay NIS 60,000 for the boy's treatment and Hadassah said it would find a bed for him today or tomorrow.

Mor-Yosef noted that referrals to Hadassah by the Palestinian Authority of patients living in the territories dropped last month by 50%, compared to the same month a year ago.

Dr. Yitzhak Sever, director of the Health Ministry's general medical division and liaison on health services with the Palestinian Authority, said last night that it was illegal for

the PA to have replaced Mokassed's director, Dr. Amin Tanji, with Dr. Rustum Namari.

"By law, hospital directors must be approved by the ministry. However, we will go and investigate; if Dr. Namari is a qualified medical administrator, and if no major changes have been made at Mokassed and the department heads remain the same, we are likely to grant approval," Sever said.

"But if not, we can tell the four public health funds that insure eastern Jerusalem Arab residents not to cover treatment costs at Mokassed and not to refer patients there and to the four other hospitals that have been taken over by the PA [Augusta Victoria, the Red Crescent Hospital, and two others in Kalanidia and Beit Hanina]."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's senior adviser David Bar-Ilan said that the issue was raised in the meeting Sunday night with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, but only as an example of the PA's violation of the Oslo agreements and not in detail. Bar-Ilan said the Palestinians promised "to look into it."

NEWS

in brief

Albanian culture minister here

Albanian Culture Minister Teodor Laco, here on a four-day visit, will hold talks with members of the cultural community in an effort to increase the cultural dialogue between the two countries, the Education Ministry spokesman said. He met with Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer last night to discuss ways of advancing educational and cultural ties.

Albania gave safe haven to some 1,800 Jews who fled neighboring countries during the Nazi era. About 90% of Albania's 300,000 Jews survived the Holocaust. Some 50 Albanians have been designated as Righteous Among the Nations. *Batsheva Tsur*

'Bibi is selling out Eilat'

Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh (Likud) has begun an all-out campaign against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with the slogan, "Bibi is selling out Eilat." According to Kadosh, the Jordanians are pressing Israel to agree that all flights to Eilat, domestic as well as international, should land at the joint airport to be established on the border. According to the agreement, the airfield itself is to be in Jordan, with two terminals, one in Israel and one in Jordan. Kadosh, as well as the Eilat Hotel Association and Arkia, are insisting that domestic flights should continue to land at the present airport in Eilat. *Haim Shapiro*

Air traffic controllers to get counseling

Air traffic controllers who have monitored an air accident or a near-miss will now receive counselling to relieve tensions and allow them to return to work at full strength.

"A controller who is involved in an incident suffers terrible tension and emotional pressures, and it is useful to give counseling to relieve the accompanying feelings," explained Avi Hacoher, chairman of the Air Traffic Controllers Association, which is sponsoring the service. Hacoher cited foreign studies showing that 86 percent of controllers involved in an air accident suffered emotional and physical difficulties following the incident. *Irim*

Haifa Chemicals talks resume

Negotiations between management and workers at Haifa Chemicals resumed yesterday. During a meeting over the weekend in New York, Haifa Chemicals chairman Arye Genger instructed management to make every effort to bring about the reopening of the plant as soon as possible. Meanwhile, management appealed to the National Labor Court against the Haifa Labor Court's decision to prohibit the firing of 124 tenured workers. *Irim*

'Techies' and science teachers needed in coming years

By JUDY SIEGEL

Manpower in high-tech fields like computers, robotics and electronics will be much in demand in the coming years, as will professionals in nursing, gerontology, and marketing.

The Hadassah Career Counseling Institute in Jerusalem issued its annual prediction of professions that will be in demand. In addition to the above, teachers in

the exact sciences — physics, maths and chemistry — will be needed.

However, according to Prof. Yitzhak Garty, head of the institute, interest among high school pupils in the exact sciences is on the decline, portending a shortage of scientists unless this changes.

The popularity of law and business administration courses among those headed for university will undoubtedly cause an oversupply in these areas, said Garty.

Knesset considering pensions for Prisoners of Zion

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

An anomalous situation arose yesterday at a meeting of the coalition faction, which gathered at the Knesset to discuss a bill that would grant pension rights to Prisoners of Zion.

All the faction members present, with the exception of MK Michael Kleiner (Likud), said they would support transferring the bill to the present Knesset.

The draft was presented to the previous Knesset by MK Emanuel Zissman, who was then chairman of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee and a Labor MK. It was due to come up again in the Knesset yesterday evening.

The factions' decision came after the government secretary issued a statement to the effect that the government was opposed to the bill, on the grounds it would cause havoc with the budget.

Yisrael Ba'aliya ministers Natan Sharansky, and Yuli Edelstein chided the government for not holding a debate on the subject. They said they would go against the cabinet stance and would support the bill. The Yisrael Ba'aliya faction took credit for the decision by the other factions to oppose the ministerial position.



Spanish visitor leaves early

Spanish Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja (left), joined by his host, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, inspects the Western Wall yesterday while waiting for his pilots to be located so they could fly him back to Spain. Mayor Oreja cut short his visit here after a car bomb exploded in Granada, killing one person and wounding seven. The blast is believed to have been carried out by Basque separatists. *(Bazac Harel)*

Catering hall withholds deposit from crash victim

By URIEL WEILMAN

When David Hefetz's nephew, Lt. Alon Babayan, was killed in last Tuesday night's helicopter crash, Hefetz decided that it would be imprudent to go forth with the planned February 25 celebration of his son Moshe's bar mitzva at the Abuza Hall in the Romema neighborhood of Jerusalem.

When he conveyed his intention to the hall's manager, Rami Gazit, Hefetz hoped to get back all of the \$6,000 cancellation cost.

While extending condolences to the Hefetz family and to all the bereaved families, Gazit said that in view of the tragic circumstances, he would reduce the \$6,000 to \$2,000, which would be

donated to a fund to build a memorial for the crash victims.

Gazit insisted that because of the "barsh language" with which Hefetz demanded the full refund, he was unwilling to forgo the entire \$6,000.

"There is loss here on both sides," he explained. "I understand that their loss is bigger [than mine], but the [helicopter crash] did not bring them any financial loss. We are trying to be understanding beyond the requirements of the law."

He pointed out that the \$6,000 contract was legally binding regardless of extraneous circumstances.

Indicating that he would be willing to postpone the event free of charge, Gazit maintained that the Hefetz family had not told him that they are considering this option.

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell yesterday called to his office a school principal and a teacher whose behavior after last week's helicopter disaster was deemed unfitting.

Yesterday evening, the senior staff at the ministry were discussing what to do about the two educators after they had explained their points of view.

Parents and pupils said Atara Sinkovitz, an English teacher at the state (secular) junior high school in Mevasseret Zion, made remarks to the effect that the soldiers were killed because they failed to uphold Jewish values.

"It is clear that she slipped up," her principal, Aviva Berger, said yesterday. "I don't know exactly what her remarks were because there are different versions. We are a liberal school and we understand that she made a mistake."

Principal, teacher in trouble for remarks about helicopter tragedy

Principal, Aviva Berger, said yesterday. "I don't know exactly what her remarks were because there are different versions. We are a liberal school and we understand that she made a mistake."

Berger said Sinkovitz had been teaching English at the school for two years "and there were never problems before ... Apparently the affair was leaked by one of the parents and it has been blown up out of proportion. It was a mistake and it has to be dealt with."

The second educator called to Dell was Anwar Daoud, the principal of the school at the mixed Jewish-Arab village of Neveh Shalom. Daoud published an obituary in a local paper for Tom Kita'in, the village's first soldier, who was killed in the crash.

Daoud was called to explain a sentence

in the obituary in which he described Kita'in as "the only Jewish soldier I agreed to take in my car when he was in uniform."

Jewish residents of the village reacted angrily to the actions of the ministry.

"This is a cynical witch-hunt," said Michal Zak. "It is [Education Minister Zevulun] Hammer who has to apologize, not Daoud. Neveh Shalom became part of the national consensus for a short time, and now it's all over. It hurts."

Zak said that Kita'in's grandmother had sent a protest to Hammer. "The family is furious — not at Daoud's remarks but at the ministry's behavior ... The shiva is not over and it did not wait to hear the version of Tom's father, Boaz, who is co-principal with Daoud."

Zak said the ministry had failed to understand that "there are two peoples with different attitudes to the IDF here. They want the Arabs to feel like the Jews. It is absurd to expect them to venerate the IDF."

Zak said that it is "obvious that Daoud was called to order to counteract the effect of the [Mevasseret] teacher's remarks."

She said that Kita'in's uncle, an Israel Prize winner, is demanding that the ministry apologize to Daoud.

Neveh Shalom secretary Ahmed Hijazi said that Hammer and the National Religious Party have "a great deal to learn about tolerance from us ... Perhaps the remarks made by Daoud were not the most fortuitous in terms of place and time, but it is totally out of proportion to charge him, as they did, with racism."

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Children mourn

In the aftermath of the tragic helicopter collision over Moshav She'ar Yashuv one week ago, children throughout the country put their feelings on paper in pictures and poems. Through their creative efforts, they have eulogized the 73 IDF soldiers who lost their lives.

Scores of readers submitted children's poems to 'The Jerusalem Post.' Some were written in school, others were written at home. All share the attempt to find meaning in the country's worst-ever air disaster. Space limitations prevent us from publishing all of the poems submitted, but we present here a selection of the writings we received from our young readers.

Untitled
When all the people were in their warm houses,
When the rain was outside, washing the whole country
When the birds were singing a song, a sad song,
Sun break my heart, say you are alive
Come back and bring your smile again.
I need you beside me to tell me that you are strong and
fine I will cry so many nights.
My tears will become the ice of my heart.
When all the people will play I will remember how we
played that you were the winner.
I'm very sorry that I didn't.

Untitled
Tuesday, the 4th of February, 73 dead, one of them a friend.
Two choppers crashed in the sky, 73 dead, will there
ever be an end?
Once I heard I couldn't stop crying, they did nothing
wrong, they shouldn't be dead.
But Israel will keep on trying, even though 73 men are
dead, one of them my friend.
Dedicated to Dafna and Yuval. Hang in there.
Adi Neumann, 13,
Kfar Sava

Untitled
I don't know why I don't
feel sad, why I can't feel
bad.
Why can't I shed at least
one tear, when crying is all
around here.
Maybe 'cause I don't
know them at all, but I just
wonder what made them
fall.
When I think about this I
want to cry, but my tears
don't fall, believe me I
try.
Soon it will be forgotten
all, but not for the parents
waiting for that phone
call.
Irit Basford, 10,
Jerusalem

Poem of mourning
73
No life, no breath
If we can just make a wish
Let them come back to
you and me.
Crying tears that will
always be
There's nothing to do,
not one thing.
Except keep them in our
hearts.
Shani Amar, 10,
Har Adar

Helicopter crash
73 soldiers died when
they went to fight the
Hizbullah in South
Lebanon.
Their two helicopters
crashed when they went to
fight for peace.
I feel SAD and MAD
that they died in the name
of PEACE! 73 DEAD
SOLDIERS - Not 10, not
30, not even 60.
73 soldiers that died to
protect me!!!
Yoni Zimmer, 12,
Haifa

Untitled
They say he exists
They say he took them
To keep him company
But I think, I know
He is only in their minds
I know it because they're
dead
I know it because no one
Not even God
Can take seventy-three
sons
Away.
So there is faith
There is destiny
But there is no GOD
God wouldn't have taken
them
And put them closer to him
To hear them scream
Maya Shekrel, 16,
Yehud

National Mourning
I am so sad and in my head I am also mad.
It is so depressing that I am sitting and not moving.
The world is so sad because of what happened and at
night I dream about the disaster often.
I saw on TV the two helicopters that crashed and will
never come back!
Liat Serok, 8,
Har Adar

Untitled
Soldiers
Strong and Brave
Guarding, Fighting, Shooting
Sometimes our soldiers die protecting our country
Good bye!
Grade 6 English class, Mercuz Mada V'Daat
Shlomi

I hate this
Seventy-three die
In a horrible crash,
Not even one survivor.
WHY?
So many people loved
them.
Zohar Fischer, 12,
Hadera

Untitled
Why did this thing hap-
pen to us?
What did we do that on
Tuesday 73 died?
Are we thinking wrong?
Are we divided?
But not one of the 73
deserved this.
I wish we could bring
back time.
Yair Shabmoni, 13,
Kfar Sava

Untitled
I wish that this would not
have happened
I wish that they weren't
in the helicopters
I wish we weren't cry-
ing
I wish that the number 73
wouldn't come up every
time we talk
And I wish it would end
Hila Erez, 13,
Kfar Sava

**The helicopter
disaster**
When I hear that - I want
to cry; I can't believe that.
The poor families of the
dead soldiers are sad, are
lonely.
Everybody is crying
Everybody is sad.
Sad music on the radio.
Sadness everywhere.
Anton Gershstein, 12,
Or Akiva

Untitled
When you left, you promised me to come back, you
gave me a kiss and I couldn't tell that it was going to be
the last one.
After a day somebody called and mother started to
cry, she explained to me that you won't be coming
home anymore. And I just couldn't understand, how
could you do a thing like that, promise to come and just
forget?
Then, they were crying next to your grave and every-
body left you something: letters, flowers, candles. I left
you something too, a place in my heart, just for you and
your friends who have gone with you.
We will never forget how young and strong you were.
Yana Barkun, 15,
Jerusalem

Untitled
Sad, tiring songs
Sad songs
Because of the helicopter crash.
Tears flowed when we heard the news.
A special broadcast
No survivors, not even one.
The parents are already crying
And there are those that do not yet know.
Such a big flame, red and orange.
The parents cry for their beloved sons that will never
return.
This is the saddest day in the world.
This is the day we will never forget.
Know beloved soldiers
We will never forget you.
Netta Ram, 10,
Har Adar

Where are you?
Snow falls on the ground
And I feel terribly down
The wind blows and tears
flow.
Child, child,
Where are you?
Where will I find you?
It's past midnight
Where are you? Where?
I'm walking through our
house,
It is so quiet.
Passing by your room, I
realize that you will
Never sleep in your bed
Again.
From now on
You will sleep
Somewhere else.
Leah Devorah Breslow, 10,
Efrat

73
They endangered them-
selves for the good of the
country.
They left behind grieving
families - sisters and
brothers fathers and moth-
ers
All that remains - loneli-
ness and sorrow
Natalie Moreno, 11,
Michmoret



Above, a picture of the helicopter collision by second-grader Ronit Alter of Ra'anana. 'I'm sorry that this happened,' she wrote. 'Don't worry, you are not the only ones who are sad, but the whole country is sad.'

The shofar is still blowing
A shofar blows loud and still, while 73 new graves
stand cold and gray on an Israeli hill.
Oh, Israel why...why! Why should these innocent men
die? The blood and tears that are shed,
Oh, the expressions that are never expressed, the words
that can never be said.
These graves will stand forever, how still they lie,
while I and my people learn to say good-bye.
Good-bye to life, good-bye to the dead, good-bye to
comfort's golden thread.
Oh, G-d, bring back the comfort, the joy.
Don't let this tragedy destroy!
Oh, you are THE ONE G-d, in you we trust, And we know
your plan is just...
The shofar is still blowing loud and still,
But we now know it's for G-d's will.
Laura Iatesta, 11,
Jerusalem

To Die...
To die... so young to die...no, no, not I.
I love the warm sunny skies,
Light, songs, shining eyes.
I want no war, no battle cry - no, no...not I.
But if it must be that I live today
With blood and death on every hand,
Praised be He for the grace,
I'll say to live, if I should die this day...
Upon your soil, my home, my land.
Atara Polsky, 12
Safed

Candle
they were only children
they grew up 73 of them
they will never come back
each person is now a candle
73 candles
the only warmth and feeling their families will feel is
the warmth of the candle
they won't see the future and it's all because of the light
the light we saw
the light they will never see 73 people
73 candles each person is a candle
Dana Barak, 14,
Kfar Sava

Untitled
They were like flowers each and every one of them was
like a full world.
They were young and beautiful, they were but not any-
more.
Nidar Azizian, 15,
Be'er Tuvia

My Son
My son.
Do you remember, as a child, how much you loved roses?
Every spring you would come into the house, Your arms
full of flowers. You would run into the kitchen, give me a
kiss and arrange them in a pretty vase on the table.
My son.
When you got older and became a teenager, you'd still
remember every spring to bring me roses. You never forgot.
My son.
At nineteen you still brought me roses. But now a
young woman got them too.
My son.
How your face would shine when you brought the
flowers in! Your eyes were full of love, and your cheeks
full of color - just like the roses. You'd laugh when you
gave me the kiss.
My son.
Now your smile and face will shine no more.
Now it is I who brings the roses. To you.
My son.
Are you making the angels laugh in heaven? Do they
have the privilege of seeing you smile? Make them
happy, my son.
Like you made me happy.
Every spring.
Elisheva Harow, 13,
Efrat

About...
We are sitting in class and talking
We are sitting talking
But not about English or anything else
But about life
About life that was wasted for nothing.
About their lives and cares
And it hurts to hear about friends
Friends who are left and not
We are sitting in class and talking
But we have nothing to say.
Boaz Eli, 15,
Yehud

Untitled
In life you have to be a Bear,
And you also have to care.
When bad things occur,
You have to be sure,
That you will get over it.
So I know how,
To get over it now.
And take that feeling away.
I close my eyes,
And always know that all the soldiers are in heaven.
Netali Ben-Zakai, 11,
Jerusalem

Brave and Strong
Brave and strong, they
go, they die.
They die for other peo-
ple, for us.
Now, we can just cry,
but, does it help?
Does it bring them back?
No, but we try, we are sad,
because they go,
they die for other people,
for us,
Brave and strong.
The sun shines, but they
are not.
We drink wine, but they
are not.
Oh, my G-d, Why?
Why do they bleed?
Why do they fall? Die?
So young, those boys.
Bat-El Swartz, 13,
Beersheba

Silence
Silence is never heard in
a country of wars.
Today we are not a coun-
try of wars,
We are a family that
has lost her sons, 73 of
them.
And silence is now
heard.
Silence that is so loud.
You can actually hear
your heart breaking.
And the silence contin-
ues night and day.
We will return to be a
country of wars,
But inside us,
The loud, painful
silence will continue,
FOREVER
Yael Ben-Artzy, 14,
Kfar Sava

DANCE REVIEW

The merry side of dancing

By ORA BRAPMAN

The only ballet company in Israel, the Israel Ballet, celebrates three decades under the directorship of its founders...

THE ISRAEL BALLETT 30TH ANNIVERSARY Carte De Visite, Berta Yampolsky...

respectable level of professionalism that enables it to tackle major classical and neo-classical ballet works...



Orna Kugel stars in the Israel Ballet's 30th-anniversary performance of 'Carte de Visite.'

The program was very light and presented the merry side of dancing. All three works evoked a faint tingling feeling of unease...

spirit of the music and built a delightful interplay between regimented rules of ballet and playfully breaking them...

by Gershwin and set by the great American choreographer George Balanchine.

Yampolsky gives credit to the Danish choreographer Harold Lander who came up with the idea of taking daily ballet exercises...

Both works are set to march tunes, both are naive and a bit embarrassing as such.

The authorities are debating whether to invest a fortune on a military parade for the state's 50th independence day...

THEATER REVIEW

Wall Street on the stage

By NAOMI DOUAI

This is the tale of a Wall Street shark come to cannibalize the proud life achievement of a decent, oldtime manufacturer...



Avi Oria and Ariel Furman give fine performances.

fast-moving, fast-talking scenario, it has already been successfully filmed. But while high-finance wizards...

are not all that comprehensible or intriguing.

However, for theatergoers in Beersheba, there is the depiction of the demise of seemingly still rentable but economically outdated concerns...

Peppered with salty Hebrew street idiom and heavy with the suspense of a hate-love denouement...

may follow the fun to the uninitiated, stock exchange shenanigans...

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

By Jerry Sroer, Hebrew, Amnon Danon, Hebrew, Heli, Kess, Heli, Heli, Beersheba Municipal Theater.

fast-moving, fast-talking scenario, it has already been successfully filmed. But while high-finance wizards...

Director Millo - an appreciation

By HELEN KAYE

Yosef Millo, the director who made theater here Israeli, died last week. He did not go quietly into the night...

But it did not happen, could not happen, because the theater community that owes much of its professional life to his vision and genius had dropped him like last year's calendar.

"Such neglect is hard to forgive," said playwright/translator Dan Almog, standing on the Cameri stage by Millo's coffin...

Millo founded the Cameri Theater in 1944 with his wife, Jemima, and a few young rebels, and ran it until 1961 when he founded the Haifa Theater...

Born in Czechoslovakia, Millo, known to friends as Peppo, and his family immigrated in 1920. His theatrical career started when the Matateh Theater hired him as an actor in 1942...

Between 1944 and 1976, when his career effectively ended, he directed some 50 productions, often adapting them for the stage himself...

His was what is known as director's theater way before its time. He had imagination, style, daring and an impeccable sixth sense of what would work on stage...

His disregard for time and budget was legendary, but "when they come to write him into history," as Moshe Shamir said, "they'll have to use that word: 'genius.'"

A friend of Natasha

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

If this is Natasha Tadson's year, the pianist owes it all to Hadara Levin, who died just over a year ago...

I'm too lazy about this aspect of the career. But Hadara, who was a very dear woman and a great friend, arranged all these concerts for me...

Tadson immigrated from the Soviet Union two decades ago and has an Israeli husband and an Israeli daughter...

"I have two worlds. And when I need to force my daughter [Hadara, 11] to play the violin I behave like a Russian mother enforcing a military regime..."

TADSON DOES not have a favorite composition although she seems to be associated with the Russian repertoire - she plays Shostakovich with the Rishon LeZion and Ra'anana orchestras...

and Prokofiev with Haifa. "The piece I'm playing at a certain time is always the best in the world for me. Even when I play an Israeli work, which I don't want and from which I suffer, once I go on stage to play it I'm convinced that it is the best work in the world."

She seems to prefer the preparation and rehearsal process to the actual performances. "If people would pay me for practicing I would have loved doing it because this is definitely my greatest pleasure. I like to work to study and to advance in life. And you achieve this by regular ongoing work at the piano and rehearsal."



Natasha Tadson

And this is why Tadson chooses her repertoire according to her own taste and not necessarily to pander to the audience. In her coming Tel Aviv Museum recital on February 22 she plays works by Schubert, Beethoven and Liszt...

To make matters worse, Radio 3 now has to compete with a myriad of local radio stations that have sprung up in the last 18 months. Menahem Granit, Radio 3's Head of Programming and Entertainment, explains that the sta-

CONCERT ROUNDUP

'La Boheme' comes down to earth

When tenor Vincenzo La Scala, cried "Mimi, Mimi," at the end of La Boheme, it was not even a cry, but more a faint recognition of the futility of life.

It was not the usual way to end the opera, but then this IPO concert performance was far from usual. Giuseppe Sinopoli, on the podium, gave us a Boheme totally devoid of its usual Puccinian schmaltz.

Instead of the soul, Sinopoli addressed his performance to the intellect. This was not a romantic La Boheme but a very down-to-earth one, more in tune with the verismo composers Mascagni and Leoncavallo.

Sinopoli was at his best in the third act of the opera, the most poignant and "real" in the story. This is where the story reached to the heart, where one realized that

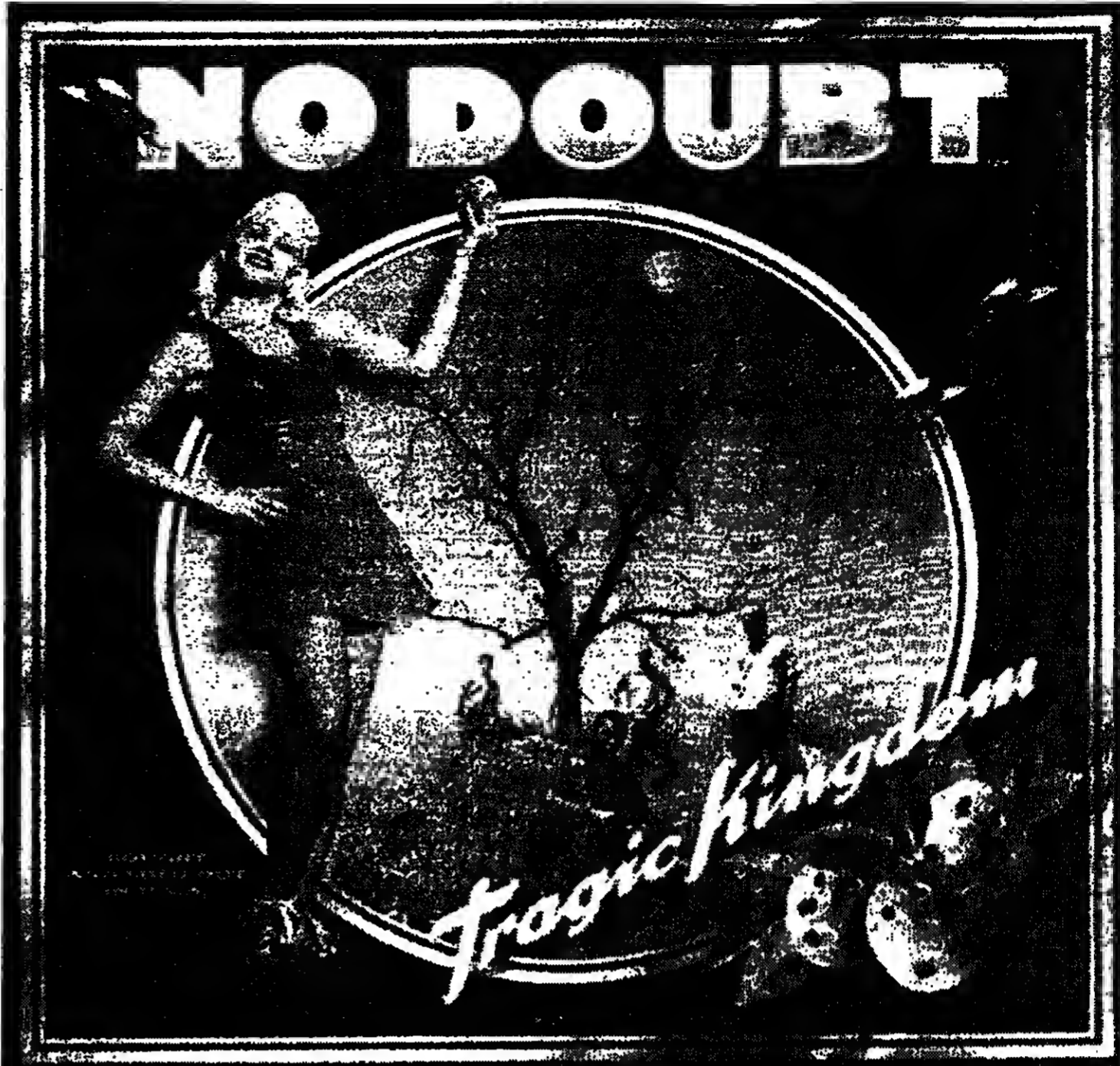
these young lovers will never be able to make it. Sinopoli's choice of tempi were well calculated and performed. Unfortunately the singers were not all up to Sinopoli's level and that of the orchestra, which played superbly.

La Scala was fine as Rodolfo. Maria Bayo is a first-rate singer, but her Mimi was too heavy and over-dramatic. The rest of the cast was mediocre, and Julie Kaufmann's Musetta didn't manage to excite the audience in the opera's showstopping aria. Mann Auditorium, Feb. 3

Michael Ajzenstadt

A TABLA - Indian drum - solo, by Pandit Sharda Sabai, is a rare treat. From slow, sustained beats to almost unbelievably fast ones, the imperceptibly gradual acceleration transforms one's accustomed

IN TUNE



No Doubt's magic 'Kingdom'

By DAVID BRINN

No Doubt is undoubtedly the band of the moment, and Tragic Kingdom is one of the dark-horse success stories of the past year.

The outlandish B-52s/Blondie caricatures and the cheesy synth riffs and Gwen Stefani's girl-group vocals float effortlessly over reggae, ska and punk beats.

It's as if the band said to all the great new-wave bands of the '70s: "If you're not using this style anymore, do you mind if we borrow it?"

It's ironic that this joyous brew

reached No. 1 in the US on the strength of the rather ordinary Madonna-cloned mega-hit "Don't Speak."

The rest of the record, however,

- TRAGIC KINGDOM No Doubt (Red Artz) SISTERS OF AVALON Cyndi Lauper (NMC)

is one big late-'70s California beach party, one that the members of No Doubt and anyone who hears the record must be enjoying immensely.

REGARDLESS OF where her career has gone since, the fact remains that Cyndi Lauper was responsible for one of pop's shining moments with 1984's She's So Unusual.

A gaggle of alternative female rockers including current No Doubt's Gwen Stefani owe a great debt to Lauper's groundbreaking melodic and vocal innovations that made her one of the most original artists to emerge in the '80s.

Dormant for most of this decade except for a successful greatest-hits package, Lauper has returned with the widely varied, wildly inconsistent Sisters of Avalon.

Lauper can't decide whether to delve into the sophisticated pop-

funk quarters that the likes of Annie Lennox call home or stick with the quirky, starkly personal tunes she rose to stardom on. So she tries both.

Unfortunately, the traits that made her so attractive are often buried under a slick gloss that still makes for pleasant listening but falls short of her potential.

When she strips away the facade, her skewed outlook, wonderfully unique vocals and gift for melodic shine through, making ballads like "Hot Gets a Little Cold" and "Fearless" and the infectious single "You Don't Know" among her best work.

She's still unusual, if a little less so, and she's still worthwhile.

Radio 3 supports local artists

By CHARLES SOLOMON

Radio 3 recently announced that it is to increase the percentage of Israeli repertoire it broadcasts from the current unofficial rate of 40 percent to 60 percent.

The move comes in response to the station's recent decline in popularity. During its heyday in the '70s, '80s and early '90s, Radio 3 was Israel's premier pop radio station, but it now finds itself in a very different marketplace.

The first blow came in the guise of MTV, which stole the thunder not only from Radio 3, but also from the rival IDF radio station.

To make matters worse, Radio 3 now has to compete with a myriad of local radio stations that have sprung up in the last 18 months.

Menahem Granit, Radio 3's Head of Programming and Entertainment, explains that the sta-

tion's main aim is to support Israeli artists.

The station is making a concerted effort to discover and nurture new and emerging talent, and is doing so by broadcasting special programs from development towns, in which local artists are given a chance to be heard on a national level.

The station also broadcasts live performances of local artists who might not get the exposure they deserve. In other words, it is becoming a community station, but on a national level.

Israel is not alone in "protecting" its local artists from being swamped by "imported" music. Canada, for example, has a similar situation where radio stations by law have to broadcast 40 percent local content.

And here, one of the new regional radio stations in the Dan region last week announced that it will be adopting a 100 percent Israeli music policy.

3's decision to pursue this policy is the beginning of a new xenophobic trend which will eventually have radio stations turning their backs, or severely limiting,

non-Israeli music being played on their programs, or whether they simply have their ears to the ground, and know what local audiences really want to hear.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15 table with columns: THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK, WEEK, CHARTS, ARTIST, TITLE. Includes entries like TONI BRAXTON, NO DOUBT, EHUD BANAI, etc.

THE JEWISH FESTIVALS AND HOLY DAYS. Contains reproductions of original watercolors, depicting twelve of the most important days in the Jewish calendar. Includes ordering information and price details.

Handwritten text: אפיקים

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like Amex, Nasdaq, and their share prices.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists Israeli companies like Bior Technology, Bior Medical, and their share prices.

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares were little changed yesterday after Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel expressed concern about the nation's budget deficit.

Mishtanim 259.55 ▲ 0.11% Maof 268.38 ▲ 0.10%

Shares were little changed yesterday after Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel expressed concern about the nation's budget deficit.

Rising shares included chemicals producer Dead Sea Works.

Key Representative Rates: US DollarNIS 3.3230 -0.09%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES: DJ IndustrialsLast 6095.54 -49.28

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES: FTSE 100Last 4307.5 -0.1

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US): Pound (GBP)Last 1.6415 -0.0130

LONDON COMMODITIES: Coffee (Mar) (ICE)Last 159.68 +5

SPOT MARKET METALS (US): Gold (Mar)Last 359.68 +5

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES: Gold (Mar)Last 359.68 +5

LONDON METAL FIXES: Gold AM fixLast 361.00 +0.1

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Shares mixed on deficit concern

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World Market Roundup

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses fell back somewhat at the end of the day yesterday under the influence of a weaker Wall Street after London, Frankfurt and Paris hit record trading highs.

Eurobourses mixed

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses fell back somewhat at the end of the day yesterday under the influence of a weaker Wall Street after London, Frankfurt and Paris hit record trading highs.

Dow falls on profit-taking

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell yesterday led by technology shares, which slid sharply amid heavy profit-taking on January's gains and more disappointing earnings news from the computer networking sector.

Wall Street Report

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell yesterday led by technology shares, which slid sharply amid heavy profit-taking on January's gains and more disappointing earnings news from the computer networking sector.

Where to Go

NOTICES IN THIS FEATURE ARE CHARGED AT NIS 28.00 PER LINE, INCLUDING VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

General Assistance

TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andress Serrano: The Museum, Soviet Photography from the Museum collection, Lucien Freud, selection of works. Tzvi Hecker, Sunflower. Portrait: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELLENIC UNIVERSITY, PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

Emergency Pharmacy

TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andress Serrano: The Museum, Soviet Photography from the Museum collection, Lucien Freud, selection of works. Tzvi Hecker, Sunflower. Portrait: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELLENIC UNIVERSITY, PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

Duty Hospitals

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (Internal, obstetrics), Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT), Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics), Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics), Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery), Netanya: Laniado.

Police

Police 100, Fire 102, First Aid 101, Magen David Adom 101, In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew or 911 (English) in most parts of the country).

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU)

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) services in the area, around the clock. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-0222, in Hebrew 177-0222. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Eran - Emotional First Aid, 1201, also: Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 696-1133), Haifa 887-2222/3, Beer Sheva 649-4333, Netanya 882-5110, Karmiel 988-5770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789. Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-694111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-837-8310, 05-855-0506 (also in Amharic). Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5538, Haifa 883-0533, Eilat 633-1977. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

British early-music ensemble I Fagiolini, comprising five singers, performs 'All the King's Men'...



British early-music ensemble I Fagiolini sings in Tel Aviv.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Shakespeare in Beirut? You bet! Camerati artistic director Omri Nitzan has directed a savely acted, very sophisticated, very witty and very impudent comedy...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***1/2 SECRETS AND LIES - The winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1996 Cannes film festival, Mike Leigh's latest movie is an eminently watchable, stylistically unremarkable character-driven melodrama...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

A BBC documentary uncovering the story of British publishing mogul Robert Maxwell's rise and fall is on Channel 1 at 10 p.m. 'Maxwell: The Downfall' follows his path to riches and his final struggle to survive the rumors and revelations of 1991...

TV

- JORDAN TV: 13:00 Holy Koran, 13:05 Cartoons, 13:30 News in Arabic... CHANNEL 1: 6:30 News flash, 6:45 News in Arabic... CHANNEL 2: 6:15 Today's Programs, 6:30 The Legend of Prince Valiant...

CABLE

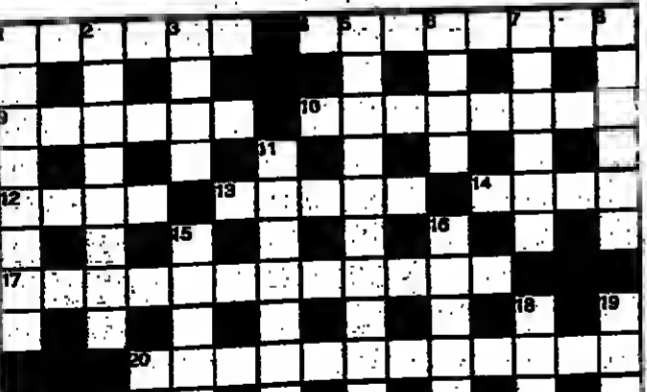
PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and various TV channels/programs like News flash, News, Ramat Aviv, Fact with Ilana Dayan, Gov Night, etc.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Give up playing chess (6), 4 Bless me! A strange get-together (8), 9 Sets out an increase in salary, we hear (6)...



SOLUTIONS

- ACROSS: 1 GLENN, 3 SURE, 5 MAMMOTH, 7 WYLANDER, 9 JELLY, 11 SPINACH, 13 RAGOUT, 15 SALT, 17 MOUTHWASH, 19 CAULIFLOWER, 21 LUNG, 23 WIND, 25 LENTIL, 27 BARKER.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Arrive (4), 3 Loathed (8), 9 Mountain ash (5), 10 Spire (7), 11 Scall (3), 13 Pruning shears (9), 14 Alcove (6), 16 University, shoe (5), 18 Charm (3), 20 Stitch (9), 23 Sloth (7), 25 Imperil (8), 26 Repair (4).

- JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Independence Day 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30. RAV CHEN 1-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31.

MOVIES

- Secrets and Lies 7, 9:45 * 6 Sleepers 6:45, 9:45 * Jane Eyre 5:30, 8:30 * RAV-NAGAR 1-4 * The Glimmer Man 4:30, 7:30...

General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.

French defense minister arrives today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Defense Minister Charles Millon arrives today for what the French are describing as a 48-hour "technical visit" aimed at getting acquainted with the Israeli defense establishment and improving defense ties between the two countries.

While both sides have expressed official optimism on increasing business, French military sources are skeptical that France, the world's third largest defense exporter, will be able to dent the strong procurement links Israel has with the United States.

This is Millon's first visit to Israel and he is to be received by a full honor guard this morning

at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv and then meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Officials said Mordechai is to brief Millon on the strategic developments in the region, but they are also likely to discuss French participation in a possible peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Millon has said in the past that France, which has a battalion of soldiers stationed in south Lebanon as part of UNIFIL, is willing to station more troops there for peace.

Last December, David Ivry, then director-general of the Defense Ministry and now special adviser to Mordechai, along with a number of defense officials paid a secret visit to Paris

to discuss ways of reaching a peace agreement with Lebanon.

Israeli and French officials are saying that the purpose of Millon's visit, which has been postponed twice before, is for him and Mordechai to get to know each other, and for defense lies, which are described as "good," to be strengthened.

However, French military officials are skeptical if there is a chance to seriously increase defense trade and/or cooperation. Millon is not bringing any defense industry

officials with him. He is, instead, bringing a number of senior journalists, two members of parliament and military advisers.

Defense trade today is so low that French military officials declined to give actual figures. It mainly revolves around the avionics market. The French are also interested in top-notch Israeli anti-tank missiles and armor protection.

The French have reportedly proposed that Israel buy their Jaguar and Tiger helicopters, but Israel has told them the IAF is content with its

US-made Apaches.

Defense officials in Tel Aviv declined to identify the types of products currently being traded with the French, nor would they disclose the volume of business between the two countries.

"The IDF is based on US equipment. The Americans are giving the Israelis a lot of aid," one French military official said. "It's hard to break that bond."

But Defense Ministry sources said Israel is open to new markets if the products are good. "There is no reason why we can't purchase items in the future or do joint research and development," one source said.

There is also talk of France building a larger ship for the navy. But considering that the

navy has recently commissioned its Sa'ar 5 class ships and is expected to start receiving three submarines built in Germany this year, that concept seems far off.

There are no joint French-Israeli training exercises and neither country appears eager for them to take place. France also does not use Israeli air space for training as the Americans do, and are doing this week in the Negev.

There is currently a process of reciprocal visits of top brass between the two countries. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shabak visited France last September, and his counterpart, Gen. Philippe Douen, is expected to visit in May.



Charles Millon

WEATHER

Golden 8-10

Hahla 7-16	Tiberias 6-18
Afula 4-17	Samarita 6-12
Tel Aviv 7-18	Jerusalem 8-11
Berzheva 6-15	Dead Sea 8-19
Eilat 9-20	

Forecast: Partly cloudy, chance of rain.

MKs take sides as 'Emigrant's Law' debate resumes

By LIAT COLLINS

A Knesset committee discussion on the proposal to allow Israelis abroad an election day to vote for the Knesset and the prime minister turned into a stormy debate on the question of "Who is an Israeli?"

The debate yesterday was held in the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, mainly to give MKs another opportunity to express their strong opinions on the bill. Processing the bill is the responsibility of the Knesset Law Committee.

MK Rubi Rivlin (Likud), who initiated the proposal, came under attack from some opposition MKs, most noticeably Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) and Ophir Pines (Labor). Rivlin defended the bill but conceded he would have to accept some changes.

"The question is no longer just 'Who is a Jew' but 'Who is an Israeli' and 'Who is an emigrant?' Who has the right to hold a valid Israeli passport?" he said.

"We mustn't forget that even under the current Citizenship Law any Israeli who happens to be here or can afford to fly here specially can vote on election day. We cannot ignore the numbers of people who go abroad to study, work for a while or improve themselves. But we should avoid the possibility that someone who immigrates for a week to get all the rights can then leave permanently and still be considered an Israeli."

Pines described the bill as "embarrassing" and Chazan called it "anti-Zionist." But some Labor MKs, such as Micha Goldman, did not dismiss it out of hand.

"There are some 300,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union who live elsewhere without ever hav-

ing passed through Israel. This bill could act as a springboard to reach them and get them to come here. It's not a popular bill, it's worthy of discussion," Goldman said.

According to Immigration and Absorption Ministry officials, there are some 500,000 Israelis living abroad, of whom 380,000 are adults.

Former emigrants who returned here told the committee they had tried to stay in touch with the country, paid national insurance taxes and felt close during periods of crisis. They said the law would probably help encourage other emigrants to return by making them feel wanted.

Many MKs, however, focused on the right of emigrants who are not serving in the IDF to influence affairs of war and peace.

"You're saying that a person who decided to leave the country has the same rights as someone who serves in Lebanon?" asked Pines. "This is not the bill of a Zionist. It's a political bill."

MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said the arguments against the bill are "hypocritical." "Those same people who criticize it don't hesitate to rush to ask emigrants to donate money," Stern said. He said only someone who actually cared about the country and felt attached to it would vote in any case.

Meanwhile, Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) submitted a bill yesterday under which Israelis living abroad could only renew their passports if they had fulfilled their military service obligations; spent at least three months in Israel in the three years prior to the request to renew the passport; and paid the Treasury at least 5 percent of their earnings abroad.



Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, gestures during a meeting yesterday with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau at Hechal Shlomo in Jerusalem. Pope John Paul II definitely plans to visit here by the end of 1999, Cassidy said. Until now, Vatican-watchers had assumed that the pope would make a pilgrimage here during the year 2000, to mark the second millennium of Christianity.

Reform rabbi may bring Lau, Sabbah together

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel and the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem live only a few kilometers from each other, but it may take a Reform rabbi from America to bring them together.

Both Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah yesterday received participants in a conference on "The Future of Jewish-Catholic Relations in the World and in Israel/The Holy Land," sponsored by the Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Foundation,

the Foundation to Advance Interfaith Trust and Harmony (FAITH), the Interreligious Coordinating Committee in Israel (ICCI), and the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Relations (UCIR).

During the meeting with Lau, Rabbi Mark Winer of FAITH said that the group had earlier called upon Sabbah, who had expressed the wish that there could be more of a dialogue between local Christians and Jews, including the chief rabbis.

Winer quoted Sabbah as saying that in this area, the political leaders are ahead of the

religious leaders.

Lau answered that Sabbah was right, but that in a situation where people are fighting for their lives, it is reasonable that the political leaders, who have more influence, take the initiative. However, he added, he would be happy to meet with Sabbah, whom he has never met.

Commenting on the issue, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, the head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, noted that only after the fighting in Bosnia had his church and the Orthodox Church begun a dialogue.

"If our church and the Orthodox Church had been in good relations, then maybe we would not have prevented the fighting, but we could have helped," Cassidy told Lau.

Earlier in their meeting, Lau had proposed to Cassidy that religious leaders establish an international committee to extend help in places like Rwanda and Zaire, where people were dying of hunger. As a Holocaust survivor, Lau said, he feels he cannot face such horrors without taking action.

Cassidy responded that the Vatican would be open to such an idea.

Foreign airlines snub rabbinate

The foreign airlines serving Israel last week decided to disregard the Chief Rabbinate's demand to serve only kosher food on flights from Israel. In a letter sent to several airlines last month, Rabbi Levi Bistritzky, head of the rabbinate's kashrut division, said the rabbinate had received inquiries from passengers who had assumed that all food on planes leaving Israel was kosher. Bistritzky demanded that the airlines either serve kosher food to all their passengers or clearly label their meals as non-kosher.

Airline sources said they would continue to serve kosher meals to passengers who request them, but would not force their passengers to eat kosher meals.

Haim Shapiro

Deri questioned for fourth time in Bar-On affair

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri was questioned by police for several hours yesterday evening on issues relating to the "Bar-On-for-Hebron" allegations, the fourth time he has been ques-

tioned in the affair. Others said to be involved in the deal, including businessman David Appel and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, are expected to be questioned again in the next few days. Deri, Lieberman, and Appel are considered by police to be main players in the alleged deal, and

the investigation over the past week has focused on them.

The investigators have not yet uncovered any proof that attorney Roni Bar-On made any illegal agreements in advance of his appointment as attorney-general, nor is there any evidence that Shas conditioned its support of the Hebron redeployment agreement on Bar-On's appointment,

sources said.

But police investigators believe that there is evidence pointing to fraud and breach of trust by some of those involved in the affair. There are suspicions that certain officials made efforts to have Bar-On appointed, in the hope that as attorney-general Bar-On would protect their interests.

To achieve this, these officials gave incorrect information and withheld information from senior officials, including the prime minister.

Police are also investigating whether some of those involved in the affair threatened officials in the Prime Minister's Office who opposed Bar-On's appointment.

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